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BOROUGH OF COSPORT.

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ANNUAL REPORT.

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

---

YEAR 1941

(War Edition)

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BOROUGH OF GOSPORT  
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To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the  
Borough of Gosport.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my eleventh Annual Report on the health and sanitary circumstances of the borough for the year ended 31st December, 1941, on the lines indicated in Ministry of Health Circular 2604, namely that it should be confined to essential matters and as brief as possible. For security reasons tables of local populations are to be excluded and quotations from the figures supplied by the Registrar General which may enable local populations to be constructed. Moreover no reference may be made to activities in connection with wartime industrial, military or other important developments, such as extensions of water supply or sewerage works, or other public utility undertakings. When considering the figures of vital statistics it must be remembered that the same reliance cannot be placed upon them as in pre-war years when the population could be estimated more accurately. The health of Gosport in the second year of the war did not deteriorate. In spite of alerts, air raids, rationing and the rest the health of the people remained good and well up to the pre-war standard.

The main features of interest are as follows:-

Rates per 1,000 population

Births: 20.47  
compared with 14.2 for England and Wales

Deaths: 14.7 (including deaths due to enemy action)  
compared with 12.9 for England and Wales.

Infant Mortality per 1,000 live births: 46.92  
compared with 59 for England and Wales.

Other items of interest will be found in the body of my report.

In conclusion, I would like to  
express my thanks to the members of the Council,  
and especially to the Chairman and members of the  
Public Health Committee and my staff for their  
helpful co-operation.

I have the honour to be, Ladies and Gentlemen,  
Your obedient Servant,

G. W. FLEMING

Medical Officer of Health.

HEALTH COMMITTEE

THE MAYOR

Chairman: Councillor WHEELER

Vice-Chairman: Councillor E. H. SMITH

Aldermen: MAIN (Mrs.) SILVER, WILLIAMS

Councillors: ABEL, AUSTIN, AYLING, NOBES  
OVENS, TURNER, WILLIAMS (Mrs.)

STAFF

Medical Officer of Health, School Medical Officer and  
Medical Superintendent of the Isolation Hospital:

G. W. FLEMING

L.R.C.P. & S., L.R.F.P. & S., D.P.H.

Chief Sanitary Inspector

T. E. OWENS

Cert. R. San. I., Meat & Food Insp. Cert. etc.

Additional Sanitary Inspector

H. R. DUKE

Cert. R. San. I., Meat & Food Insp. Cert.

Chief Clerk

H. J. MOORE

Assistant Clerks:

Miss J. G. FISHER

K. WILLIAMSON (Military Service from August, 1939)

Disinfecter and Mortuary Attendant:

E. G. COLES

Mosquito Sprayer

C. GIDDY

## SECTION A.

### SUMMARY FOR 1941

#### 1. General Statistics

Area in acres (land and inland water)	6,227
Registrar General's estimate of population - omitted for security reasons	
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1941) according to Rate Books	12,760
Rateable Value	£397,953
Sum represented by penny rate	£1,485

#### 2. Extracts from Vital Statistics

##### Live Births

Legitimate )	Rate per 1,000 population	20.47
Illegitimate )	(England and Wales	14.2)

##### Stillbirths

Legitimate )	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births,	38.24
Illegitimate )		

<u>Deaths</u>	Rate per 1,000 population	14.71
	(England and Wales	12.9)

Deaths from puerperal causes:-

	Rate per 1,000 total (Live and still) births
Puerperal Sepsis	1.55
Other puerperal causes	1.55
Total	3.10

Infant mortality per 1,000 live births 46.92  
(England and Wales 59)

Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate  
live births 46.63

Illegitimate infants per 1,000  
illegitimate live births 51.28

## SECTION B.

### GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

Developments or changes in the services provided  
in the area under the following heads:-

- (a) Laboratory Facilities - In addition to the County  
Laboratory considerable use has also been made  
of the Emergency Public Health Laboratory at  
Winchester.
- (b) Ambulance facilities - The Council maintains three  
Ambulances - one for infectious disease and the  
others for general and accident cases  
Telephone numbers:-  
Infectious Disease Ambulance 8535  
General Ambulances 89263
- (c) Nursing in the Home - By Victoria Nursing Society  
Telephone Number 8039



(d) Clinic and Treatment Centres

Tuberculosis

Under County Medical Officer, The Castle,  
Winchester.  
(Phone Winchester 1004)

Clinic: 4 Clarence Square, Gosport.  
Mondays 10 a.m. - 12 a.m.

Maternity & Child Welfare

Under County Medical Officer, The Castle,  
Winchester.

(Phone Winchester 1004)

Clinic: Methodist Church, Stoke Road, Gosport.  
Fridays 10 - 12 a.m. and 2 - 4 p.m.

Ante-Natal Clinics

Under County Medical Officer, The Castle,  
Winchester.

Clinic: War Memorial Hospital, Gosport.  
Thursdays at 2 p.m.

School Clinic, 2 Stoke Road, Gosport.

Minor Ailments - Open daily at 9 a.m. excepting  
Saturdays and holidays.

Dental	- By appointment only
Eye	- By appointment only.
Orthopaedic	- By appointment only.

Vaccination

Vaccination Officer - C. F. Lewington,  
(Phone 8456) Public Assistance Institution,  
Park Road,  
Gosport.

Public Vaccinator - Dr. J. C. Glen,  
(Phone 8008) Bury Grange,  
The Avenue,  
Alverstoke.

(e) Hospitals: Public and Voluntary:

War Memorial Hospital - Voluntary  
Infectious Diseases

Hospital - Local Authority  
Haslar - Naval Hospital

National Children's

Home & Orphanage,

Alverstoke Branch - Now Emergency Hospital.

## SECTION C.

### SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

#### Water

The main supply is a typical chalk water remaining practically constant in quality.

During the year 43 samples of the water were submitted for both chemical and bacteriological examination and all were reported satisfactory.

To avoid the danger of contamination of the water supply due to enemy action the following precautions were taken with the co-operation of the Manager of the Gosport Waterworks Co. - Mr. Cobbett and the Borough Engineer. After each air raid careful inspection of the area affected was made for damage to sewers or water mains and when necessary a sample of the water was taken for bacteriological examination and the householders in the area served by the main were warned to boil the water before drinking it until all risk of contamination had passed and the main had been repaired. The damaged mains were also cleansed and disinfected and the water super-chlorinated for a short period.

Rivers and Streams - There was no pollution in the area requiring any action.

Public Cleansing - House refuse is collected once weekly.

#### Sanitary Inspections of the Area

Public Air Raid Shelters	1118
Dwelling Houses	
Inspections under the Public Health Acts	547
Inspections under the Housing Act	27
After Infectious Disease	850
Overcrowding	5
Complaints received and attended to	217
Re Sanitary Dustbins	8
Drainage Inspections	303
Drains Tested	1
Houses let in Lodgings	4
Common Lodging Houses	10
Offensive Trades	3
Tents, Vans and Sheds	5
Stables and Stable Yards	123
Piggeries	73
Factories (Power)	29
Factories (Non-power)	11
Bakehouses	33
Public Conveniences	26
Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act	47
Schools	5
Shops Acts and Young Persons (Employment) Act	285
Mosquito Control	88
Vacant Lands and Dumps	35
Common Yards and Passages	4
Revisits to Premises under Notice	763
Works in Progress	48
Interviews with Owners Etc.	319
Vermineous Premises or Rooms	93
Slum Clearance Revisits	63
Miscellaneous Visits	927

# Sanitary Inspections of the Area (Cont.)

## Meat and Foods

Slaughter Houses	355
Butchers' Shops and Stalls	376
Fishmongers and Poulterers	89
Greengrocers and Fruiterers	107
Grocers and Other Food Shops	326
Fried Fish Shops	61
Dairies and Milkshops	125
Cowsheds	10
Ice Cream Premises	5
Preserved Food Premises	32
Cafes	31
Street Hawkers and Vendors	18
Milk Samples - <del>for examination for Typh</del>	30
<del>for Phosphate test</del>	20
<del>for Bact. Count</del>	20
<del>for Typhoid</del>	2
Milk Detergent Samples for Bact. Examination	10
School Milk Bottles	10
Water Samples taken	43
Food and Drug Samples	130
Miscellaneous	571
Total Visits	8456

## Summary of Sanitary Work Carried Out Houses

Roofs	38
Walls (External)	4
Rainwater Pipes	3
Eaves Guttering	6
Dampness Abated	6
Coilings	4
Floors	5
Windows	7
Sashcords	1
Doors	5
Cleansed	6
Fireplaces	3
Cooking Ranges	5
Sinks (Repair and Renewal)	1
Sink Waste Pipes	6
Repairs to Water Supplies	38
Overcrowding Abated	1
Miscellaneous	13
Public Air Raid Shelters	39
<u>Drainage</u>	
Drains Cleared	74
Drains Repaired	9
Other Defects	14
<u>Water Closets</u>	
Cleared	9
Repaired	42
Cleansed	1
<u>Dustbins</u>	
New Provided	3
<u>Miscellaneous</u>	
Offensive Accumulations	14
Verminous Houses	29
Animals	2



Summary of Sanitary Work Carried Out (Cont.)

Contraventions

Slaughter-houses	5
Common Lodging Houses	1
Dairies and Milkshops	5
Butchers' Premises	1
Food Premises	8
Piggeries	5
Stables and Stable Yards	5
Factories	6
Shops Acts	1
Fried Fish Shops	1

Total Defects Remedied 424

Notices Served

Informal Notices:

Public Health Acts	169
Shops Acts	2

Statutory Notices Nil

Number of Notices Complied with 199

Action taken under the Shops Act, 1934, and the  
Young Persons (Employment) Act, 1938.

285 visits were made

2 Informal Notices were complied with and  
various minor contraventions rectified  
without notices being served.

Camping Sites - No change

Smoke Abatement - No action required

Swimming Baths and Pools - The Corporation Swimming  
Pool was used for storage of fresh water for  
emergency use after the swimming season closed.

Eradication of Bed Bugs

The following Action was taken during the year:-

	<u>Council Houses</u>	<u>Other Houses</u>	<u>Total</u>
1. No. of houses found to be infested	8	13	21
2. No. of houses disinfested	8	12	20

Mosquito Control

No change in the arrangements but effective  
control was impossible owing to flooding of wide areas  
for defence purposes.

During the year 89 gallons of larvicide and  
505 gallons of paraffin were used for this purpose.  
The cost to the Corporation for wages, larvicide,  
paraffin and haulage etc. was £213. 17. 9d.

Premises Subject to Control by the Local Authority

Houses let in lodgings	4
Common Lodging Houses	1
Tents, Vans and Sheds	2
Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops	143
Slaughter-houses	9
Hawkers' Premises	12



SECTION D.

1. Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the year:-

1. (a) Total Number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under the Public Health or Housing Acts.) 255
- (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose 574
2. (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above,) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932. Nil
- (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose Nil
3. Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation Nil
4. Number of Dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation. 255

2. Remedy of Defects during the year without service of Formal Notices.

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers 228

3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year:-

A. Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:-

1. Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs Nil
2. Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:-
  - (a) By Owners Nil
  - (b) By Local Authority in default of owners Nil

B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts:-

1. Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied Nil
2. Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:-
  - (a) By Owners 8
  - (b) By Local Authority in default of owners Nil

C. Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:-

1. Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made Nil
2. Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders Nil
3. Number of dwelling-houses rendered fit for human habitation in accordance with undertakings given by owners Nil

#### 4. Housing Act, 1936, - Part IV - Overcrowding.

- |     |  |     |
|-----|--|-----|
| (a) | (i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year   | 6   |
|     | (ii) Number of families dwelling therein   | 6   |
|     | (iii) Number of persons dwelling therein   | 49  |
| (b) | Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year   | Nil |
| (c) | (i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year   | Nil |
|     | (ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases   | Nil |
| (d) | Particulars of any cases in which dwelling houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding | Nil |

#### Slum Clearance - Position at 31st December, 1941

Total number of Houses demolished	386
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#### SECTION E

##### Inspection and Supervision of Food

##### Milk Supply

Of 40 samples of milk taken under the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, only one was adulterated.

Of 30 samples of milk taken for bacteriological examination and/or the phosphatase test, 5 out of 19 failed to pass the phosphatase test for efficient pasteurisation but no T.B. or other pathogenic organisms were found.

The number of licences issued by the Local Authority in 1941 to producers and distributors of special milk were as follows:-

	<u>Producers</u>	<u>Distributors</u>
Tuberculin Tested	-	5

Three licences to pasteurise Milk were issued.

##### Meat and other Foods

The total animals slaughtered in the Borough during the year and the number of carcasses examined were:-

<u>Slaughtered</u>	<u>Inspected</u>
5941	5900

According to the above figures 99.3 per cent of the total animals slaughtered were inspected. Only one of the slaughterhouses in the borough was in use during 1941 and it was under Government control.

## Inspection and Supervision of Food (Cont.)

The surrender of unsound meat and other foods within the borough during the year were as follows:-

Tuberculosis:-	<u>Beasts</u>	<u>Calves</u>	<u>Total</u>
Whole Carcasses and organs	14	1	15
Forequarters	15	-	15
Hindquarters	3	-	3
Various Parts and organs	583	-	583
Beef: 83 lbs.			

Other Diseases:-	<u>Beasts</u>	<u>Sheep</u>	<u>Total</u>
Whole Carcasses and organs	-	2	2
Various Parts and organs	153	161	314
Mutton 20 lbs.			
Ox Tripes 8			
Ox Feet 32			

### Decomposition Etc.

Bacon	55 lbs.	Lunchcon Sausage	12 lbs.
Beefex	1 jar	Liver Sausage	5½ lbs.
Biscuits	4 lbs.	Margarine	12 lbs.
Cheese	5½ lbs.	Milk	122 tins
Eggs	124	Peas	7 tins
Fish	42½ boxes	Pickles	½ gallon
Fowls	4	Soup	2 tins
Jam	11 lbs.		

### War Damage

Apples	25 lbs.	Cheese	8 lbs.
Bacon	7 lbs.	Cooking Fat	20 lbs.
Broad Beans	4 lbs.	Flour	1½ cwt.
Butter	1 lb.	Grapes	10 lbs.
Canned Goods:		Haricot Beans	5 lbs.
Beans	4 tons	Kippers	1 stone
Corned Beef	37 tons 12 cwt.	Margarine	3½ lbs.
Meat	24 tons	Potatoes	1 ton
Milk 16 tons, 60 gals, 15 sacks		Rice	8 lbs.
Pork and Beans	2 tons	Rolled Oats	2 lbs.
Sausages	7½ tons	Sausage Filling	4 lbs.
Tomatoes	2½ tons	Split Peas	3 lbs.
Veal and Ham	2 tons	Sweets	2 lbs.
Various	2½ tons, 3 cases	(Various Packet	
		(Goods and Sundries	5 cases

### Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

Samples taken by the Inspectors during the year:-

<u>Article</u>	<u>Genuine</u>	<u>Unsatisfactory</u>	<u>Total</u>
Milk	39	1	40
Other Foods	77	4	81
Drugs	6	-	6
Total	122	5	127

In 2 of the cases of unsatisfactory samples legal proceedings were taken against the vendors resulting in fines of £25 and £3 respectively.



## SECTION E

### Prevalence of, and Control over, Infectious and Other Diseases

Scarlet Fever There were only 25 cases of this disease compared with 48 in 1940. There was one death.

Diphtheria Only 5 cases compared with 20 in 1940. There was one death.

Enteric Fever There were 6 cases notified compared with 2 in 1940. All recovered. In none of these cases (Includes Typhoid and Para-typhoid) could the source of infection be traced to damaged water mains or sewers as the result of enemy action. The bacteriological report was negative for 2 of the cases and positive for 4 - all of which were paratyphoid.

Dysentery There were 8 cases of dysentery due to Sonne's bacillus, all of which recovered.

Pneumonia There were 59 cases compared with 70 in 1940. There were 17 deaths.

Cerebro-spinal Fever There were 10 cases compared with 14 in 1940. There was one death.

Measles There were 419 cases compared with 63 in 1940, but there were no deaths.

Whooping Cough There were 205 cases compared with 9 in 1940. There were 2 deaths.

Food Poisoning Three cases of food poisoning were notified, but the diagnosis was not confirmed.

### Immunisation against Organisms of the Typhoid Group

In accordance with Ministry of Health Circular 2230, dated 7th December, 1940, facilities for free treatment were provided. Mixed Typhoid and Para-typhoid Vaccine supplied by the Emergency Public Health Laboratory Service was used. The following table shows the number of inoculations given during the year 1941:-

	ADULTS (over 18 yrs)		CHILDREN (3-18 yrs. incl.)				TOTAL
	MALES	FEMALES	3-5	6-12	13-15	16-18	
1st Injections	22	99	4	13	9	25	172
2nd Injections	35	120	4	13	10	31	213

### Immunisation against Diphtheria

During the year 1083 children from 1 - 15 years old were immunised which compares very favourably with only 371 in the previous year. Since the scheme started in 1938 over 4,000 children were immunised by the end of 1941. Of these approximately 21% were children under 5 and 79% children from 5 - 15 years of age.



Prevalence of, and Control over, Infectious and other Diseases (Cont.)

Cases of Infectious Diseases Notified during the Year 1941

	Total Cases Notified	Total cases Admitted to:		Total Deaths
		Blake Isolation Hospital	Other Hospitals	
Scarlet Fever	25	1	-	1
Diphtheria	5	4	-	1
Enteric Fever	6	6	-	-
Pneumonia	59	-	4	17
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	10	8	2	1
Acute Poliomyelitis	2	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	4	-	1	1
Erysipelas	10	-	-	-
Measles	412	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	205	-	-	2
Dysentery	8	-	-	-
Totals	753	19	7	23

Tuberculosis (New Cases and Mortality during 1941)

	NEW CASES - 47				DEATHS - 18			
	Pulmonary		Non-pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Undr. 1 yr.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 - 5 yrs.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 - 15 yrs.	-	-	1	2	-	1	-	-
15 - 25 "	5	5	-	-	3	2	-	-
25 - 35 "	5	5	-	2	1	1	-	-
35 - 45 "	6	3	-	-	4	1	-	-
45 - 55 "	9	1	-	-	1	1	-	-
55 - 65 "	1	2	-	-	-	1	-	-
65 & up	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-
Totals	26	16	1	4	11	7	-	-

The above figures represent a fall in the Tuberculosis Death Rate from all forms of the disease compared with the previous year (1940) from 0.69 per 1,000 population to 0.54 and in pulmonary tuberculosis alone from 0.61 per 1,000 population to 0.54.

Ratio of Non-notified deaths to total deaths - 7 : 18

There was no instance of wilful neglect or refusal to notify.

There is no evidence of excessive incidence of, or mortality from, tuberculosis in any particular occupation in the area.

Tuberculosis Dispensary

Number of patients under supervision or treatment	
at the Dispensary	108
Number admitted to Sanatoria or as in-patients	
to any Hospital	28

BIRTH-RATES, DEATH-RATES, ANALYSIS OF MORTALITY  
MATERNAL DEATH-RATES, and CASE-RATES for certain  
INFECTIOUS DISEASES in the year 1941.

	England and Wales	126 County Boroughs and Great Towns including London	148 Smaller Towns Resident Population 25,000 - 50,000 at 1931 Census	London Administrative County	GOSPORT.
	Rates per 1,000 Civilian Population				
<u>Births</u>					
Live	14.2	14.7	16.4	8.9	20.47
Still	0.51	0.58	0.60	0.33	0.81
<u>Deaths</u>					
All Causes	12.9	14.9	13.0	16.3	14.71
Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	-
Scarlet Fever	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.03
Whooping Cough	0.06	0.07	0.06	0.04	0.06
Diphtheria	0.07	0.08	0.06	0.03	0.03
Influenza	0.19	0.17	0.20	0.15	0.21
Smallpox	-	-	-	-	-
Measles	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.02	-
<u>Notifications</u>					
Typhoid Fever	0.03	0.02	0.03	0.04	0.03
Paratyphoid Fever	0.09	0.12	0.09	0.05	0.15
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	0.25	0.31	0.20	0.30	0.30
Scarlet Fever	1.47	1.49	1.51	1.01	0.75
Whooping Cough	4.39	4.37	4.50	3.50	6.18
Diphtheria	1.25	1.53	1.19	0.93	0.15
Erysipelas	0.30	0.36	0.27	0.50	0.30
Smallpox	-	-	-	-	-
Measles	10.33	8.27	10.47	4.77	12.63
Pneumonia	1.25	1.53	1.04	1.07	1.77
	Rates per 1,000 Live Births				
Deaths under 1 yr. of age	59	71	56	68	46.92
Deaths from Diarrhoea) and Enteritis under)					
2 years of age	5.1	7.5	4.6	6.8	1.6
	Rates per 1,000 Total Births (i.e. Live and Still)				
<u>Maternal Mortality (Excluding Abortion)</u>					
Puerperal Infection	0.48)				(1.55
Others	1.75)	Not Available			(1.55
Total	2.23)				(3.10
<u>Notifications</u>					
Puerperal Fever )	11.91	15.64	9.43	( 2.29)	6.20
Puerperal Pyrexia )				(19.3*)	

\* Including Puerperal Fever.